for preparation of the Regional Plan 2021. The Study Group on Policy Zones, Demographic Profiles and Settlement Pattern, constituted by the National Capital Region Planning Board for this purpose, considered the matter in the overall perspective and recommended that the area of National Capital Region may not be further extended at least upto the year 2021. Since the area of National Capital Region needs to be co-terminus with the district boundaries the Group recommended extension of the area to cover the entire Alwar district only. The recommendations of the Study Group were considered and approved by the National Capital Region Planning Board in its meeting held on 16.1.2004.

It may be mentioned, however, that Gwalior has been identified as one of the Counter Magnet towns which are intended to act as interceptors of future migratory flows and as regional centres for growth, and is provided loan assistance by the NCR Planning Board for infrastructure development.

Metro Rail

1552. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Delhi Metro Rail would be fully operational;

(b) the names of other metro cities chosen for assistance by his Ministry in the projects of Metro Rail and at what cost;

(c) the projected dates of completion of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) Delhi MRTS Phase I is scheduled to be completed by March, 2006.

(b) and (c) A proposal has been received from the State Government of Karnataka for a Metro Rail Project for Bangalore city at an estimated cost of Rs. 6296 crore. Request for Central assistance has been made. The implementation period of the project is five years from the date of its commissioning. There are no other firm proposals at present.